



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Concurrent Technologies Corp., Charleston, SC

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Concurrent Technologies Corporation in Charleston, South Carolina, for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The City of Charleston is the recipient of a Brownfields Assessment Pilot and a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the City of Charleston's federal Enterprise Community, which is located near the city's historic district. Approximately 22,500 people live in the Enterprise Community, 80 percent of whom are African American. The poverty rate in the Enterprise Community is greater than 45 percent and the unemployment rate is over 12 percent. Of the 2,000 families with children in the Enterprise Community, two-thirds are headed by single women.

The Enterprise Community has experienced the growth and decline of several industries since the Civil War, including fertilizer manufacturing, lumber treatment, and pulp and paper manufacturing. The Charleston Naval Base, which employed many in the area, closed in 1994, resulting in higher unemployment and the decline of many small manufacturing operations. Over 100 brownfields have been identified within the Enterprise Community. The Department of Defense

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Charleston,
South Carolina

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 60 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from low-income residents of the City's Enterprise Community, which has suffered economically from the closing of the Charleston Naval Base and the presence of over 100 brownfields created by past industrial activities.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 4 Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/wastepgs/brownfpgs/bf.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

plans a \$30 million restoration of Charleston Naval Base. The environmental industry in Charleston is a growing industry and major environmental firms have indicated that they would be adding environmental technicians to their staff over the next couple of years.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Concurrent Technologies plans to train 60 participants, achieve an 80 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from low-income residents of the Enterprise Community. The Pilot training program will consist of 40 hours of sampling and basic math, 30 hours of OSHA general industry standards for safety and health, 40 hours of HAZWOPER, eight hours of heavy equipment operation and safety, and 24 hours of innovative technology courses. In addition, eight students will be provided the opportunity to take the Commercial Driver's License course at the conclusion of the environmental technician training.

Concurrent Technologies' training efforts will be supported by organizations such as Trident Technical College, the Medical University of South Carolina, Innovative Alternatives for Women, Partners for Employment Program, and Youth Services Charleston. The training program will offer opportunities to take advanced training and earn credits towards a college degree. The City offers employers incentives to hire local residents.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents of the City of Charleston's Enterprise Community;
- Conducting brownfield technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.